Variante

requiem for the ephemeral

ヴァリアンテ

01

杉基イクラ

SUGIMOTO IQURA

Houshou Aiko
A girl bearing a grotesque atrocity on her left arm. Can there be hope for the future of a girl with such a twisted and painful fate?

Kadokawa Comics Dragon Jr.

Variante ヴァリアンテ 01 杉基イクラ

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Hello, everyone. This is my maugural manga volume release as 'Sugimoto Iqura' (However, I am proud to say it is actually my tenth volume published.) I face a new set of challenges with this venture with my new name.

Please enjoy ***Variante***!

[Sugimoto Iqura]

カバー印刷＝図書印刷
装幀＝セキネシンイチ制作室

Kadokawa Comics Dragon Jr.

Variante 01

杉基イクラ

角川書店

Variante

#0001

[BEFORE DAWN]

Raws/Scans
da MiGHTy pLUm!

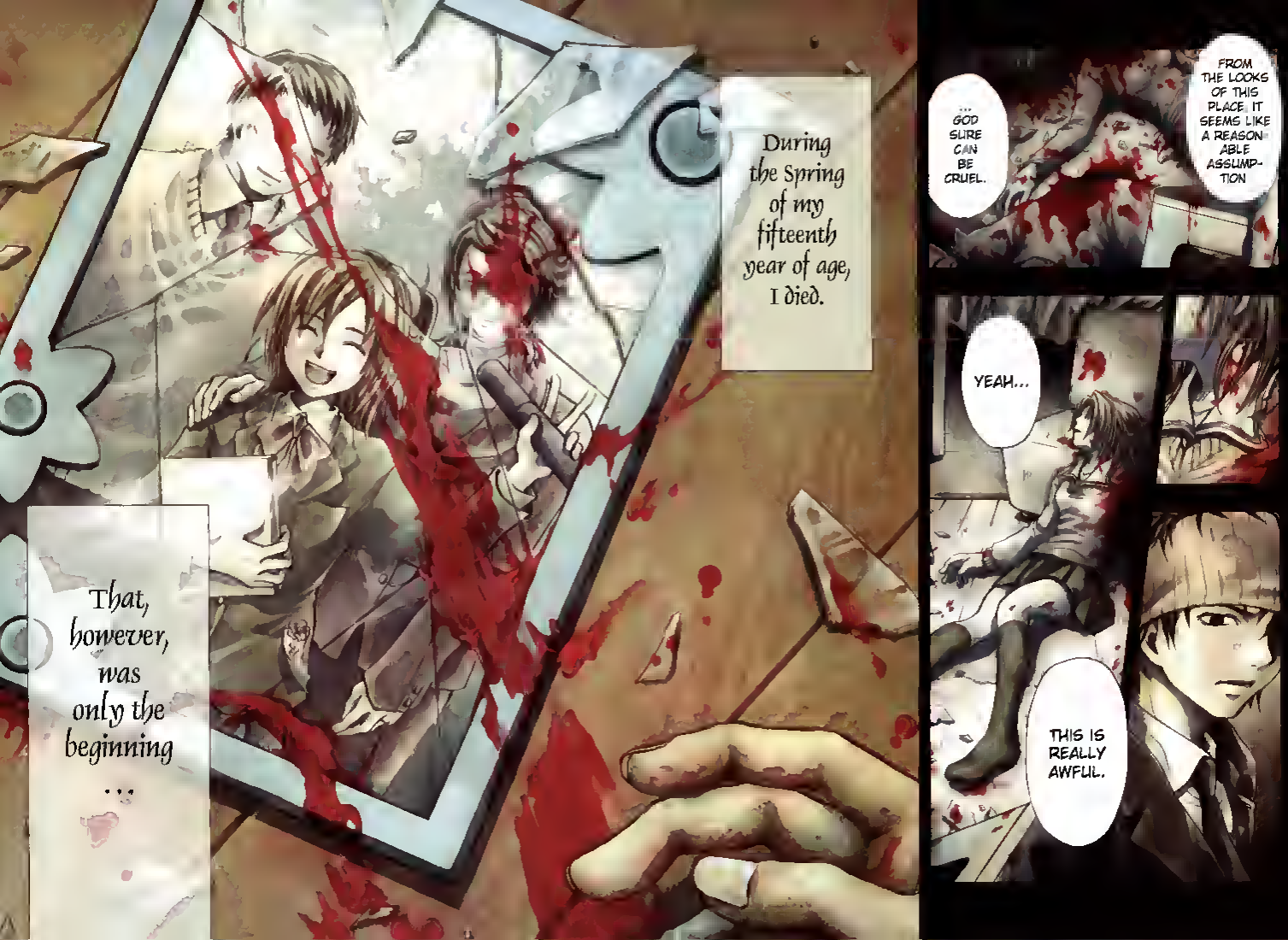
Translator
Kechi

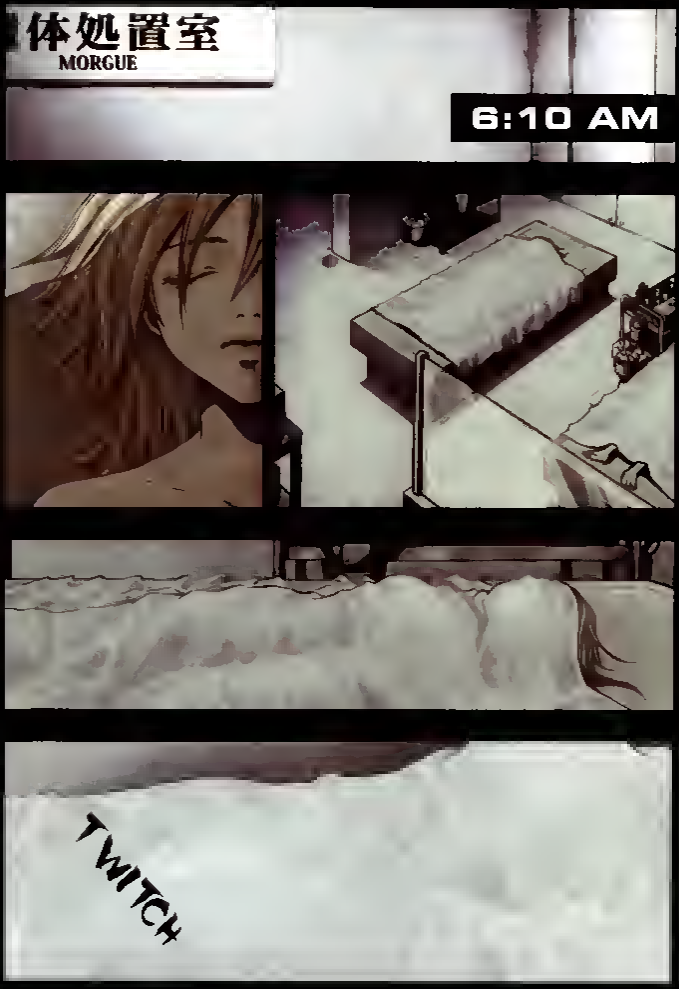
Proofers
Floating Sakura
Wraith Magus

Editor
da MiGHTy pLUm!

Quality Assurance
Loserbait
Floating Sakura

2:40 AM
PRRR!
MUSASHINO CITY, GOTENYAMA RESIDENCE OF HOUSHOU YUKIO. CODE ZERO-FIVE.
I REPEAT, CODE ZERO-FIVE.
TIME OF DEATH: ABOUT AN HOUR OR TWO AGO, IT SEEMS.
HEY, INVESTIGATOR-NII-SAN. OVER HERE.
YOU THINK IT COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY "THAT"?
IT'S A GOOD QUESTION... WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE AUTOPSY TO BE SURE
STILL...


During the Spring of my fifteenth year of age, I died.
That, however, was only the beginning . . .
FROM THE LOOKS OF THIS PLACE IT SEEMS LIKE A REASONABLE ASSUMPTION
. . . GOD SURE CAN BE CRUEL.
YEAH...
THIS IS REALLY AWFUL.


体処置室
MORGUE
6:10 AM
TWITCH

Variante

requiem for the world

ヴァリアンテ

01

杉基イクラ

SUGIMOTO IQURA

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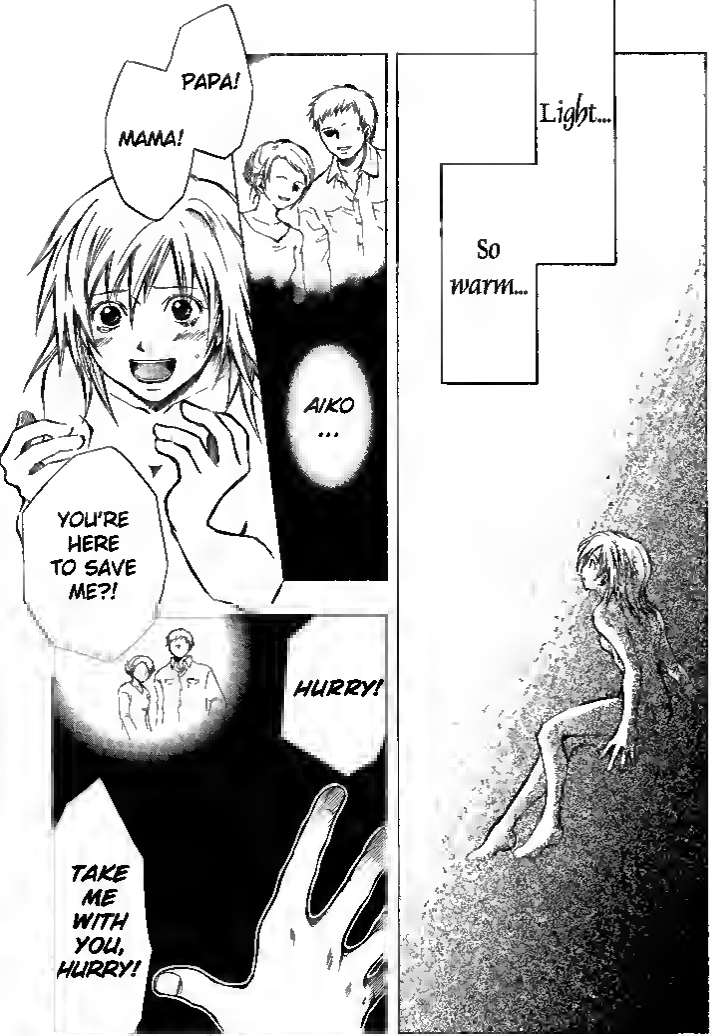
BA-BUMP
#0001
[BEFORE DAWN]
DON'T RUN IN THE HALLWAYS!
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY !!
TAK
TAK
BAM
KOCHIGAWA WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
I SEE YOU'RE NOISY AS EVER, SUDOU-KUN
NO NEED TO GET EXCITED, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S GOING ANYWHERE.

THE GIRL'S HOUSHOU AIKO, FIFTEEN YEARS OLD. SHE'S ONE OF THE VICTIMS FROM THE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION YOU HEADED UP.
THIS MORNING, THE MEDICAL EXAMINER WAS DOING HIS ROUNDS WHEN HE NOTICED A PULSE. AFTER REVIVING HER, THE MEDICAL EXAMINER SENT HER HERE.
THAT'S ABOUT IT.
OF COURSE, MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO BE NOISY,
SHE MIGHT JUST WAKE UP SOONER.
WHATEVER. JUST TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.
GOOD THING WE HADN'T DONE THE AUTOPSY YET.
DID SHE REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?
UNBELIEVABLE.
SHE'S NOT THAT FORTUNATE, INSPECTOR SUDOU.
HUH?
ANYWAY, I DON'T SEE ANY SIGNS OF BRAIN TRAUMA,
AND THERE ISN'T EVEN A SINGLE BROKEN BONE IN THAT SUPPOSEDLY CRIPPLED LEFT ARM
WHOA!
GUESS SHE REALLY LUCKED OUT!

PRETTY WORDS LIKE THAT DON'T DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.
WHETHER YOU CALL IT "A MIRACLE", OR "LUCK"
BUT THAT GIRL IS REALLY...
I'LL GO INTO DETAIL IN MY FINAL REPORT,
ABNORMAL.
SAM

This place ..
is silent.
It's so very dark.
My body feels heavy. I can't breathe.
I'M SCARED
SOMEONE HELP ME
Help me ...
Papa... Mama...
Is this place real?
Is this a dream?
It's like I'm slowly sinking into a freezing cold ocean...

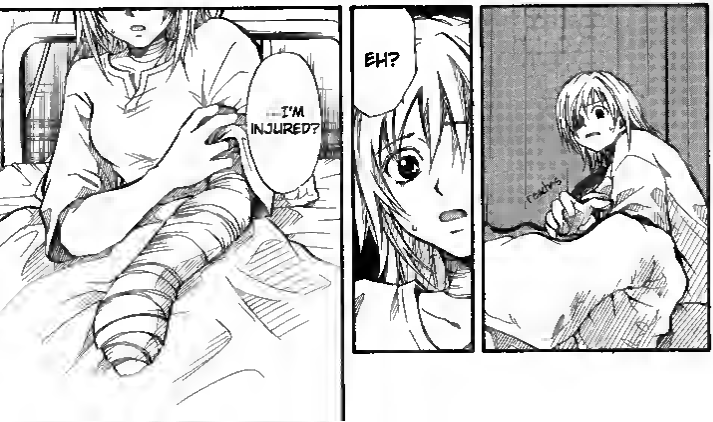

PAPA!
MAMA!
AIKO
...
YOU'RE HERE TO SAVE ME?!
HURRY!
TAKE ME WITH YOU, HURRY!
Light...
So warm...

PAPA!
MAMA ...!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
?!
REACH
RUN

GRAB
N-
...

NOOOOO!!
pant
pant
pant
3 DAYS LATER, 1:10 AM

TICK
TOCK
.....


I'M INJURED?
EH?

IT'S TOO DARK
Where am I?
My body is heavy.
CREAK
WHY AM I INJURED?
IT MUST BE WHY I HAD THAT HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE
TMP
The floor is cold
Slide
Slide
Am I still dreaming?
CLICK

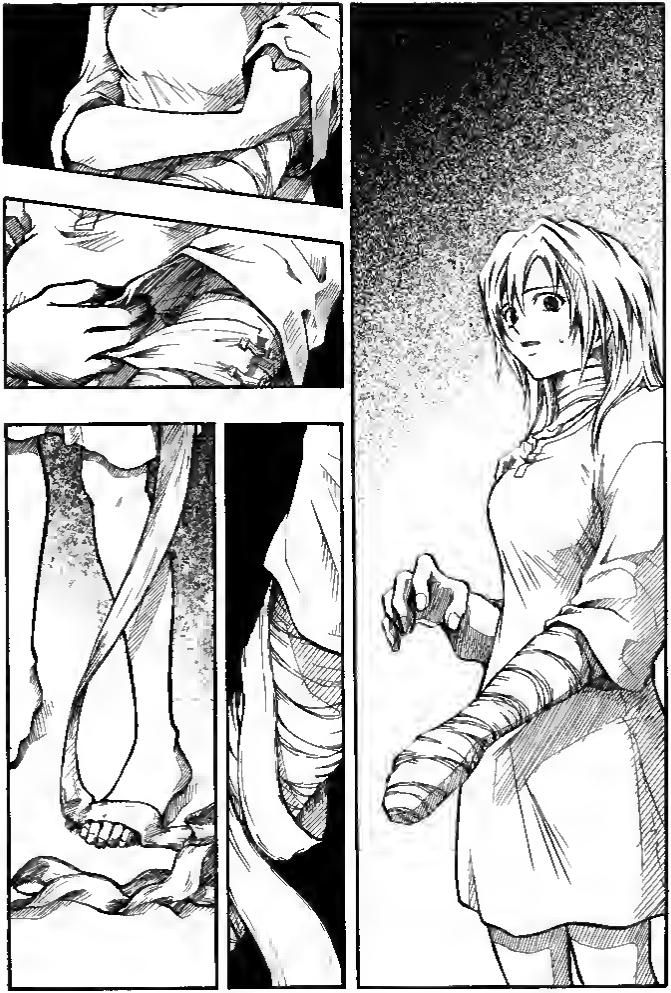
peer
CREAK
?...
WHERE ...
AM I ...?
A hospital?
IT'S SO DARK.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WELL, I CAN'T JUST SIT IN THIS WEIRD PLACE UNTIL MORNING.
HELLO
!!
IS ANYBODY HERE
?!

SILENCE...
WHAT AM I ... ...DOING HERE?!
Jeez...
SOMEONE, PLEASE COME OUT! I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE
wimper
sts...
.....
COME ON, AIKO. YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER.
Let's see...
After school ended...
OKAY, THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

I made the teacher angry...
YOU WILL FALL BEHIND IF YOU DON'T EXERCISE YOUR FINGERS EVERY DAY.
YES, MA'AM.
I went straight to my piano lessons.
AIKO-CHAN, ARE YOU REALLY PRACTICING AT HOME?
CLUNK
creak
I'm home.
Oh, it's already one in the morning.
After that, I received a call from Sachi,
and I listened to her boyfriend problems...
And then...
Maybe they're already asleep?
phew!
TO TACHAN
I can't believe it!
Doesn't that just piss you off?

And then...?
...THEN...
UM...
!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

BAM
WHA...
WHAT WAS ...
Step.
This has to be because of the weird dream I saw
REACH.



It can't be true!
NO ...
IT ...
I must still be dreaming!
SLUMP...
I have to...
I have to wake up from this dream!

BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
This nightmare!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
There's no way...
GRAB

That this is real...!
?!
SMASH!

WHO'S THERE?
WHAT JUST HAPPENED ?!
TAP
TAK
IT'S...

3:10 AM
ISN'T THIS THE WAREHOUSE OF A FOOD PROCESSING COMPANY...? ARE THEY JUST HERE FOR SOMETHING TO EAT?
WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE?
WE'VE CONFIRMED THE BODIES OF THREE PEOPLE WHO WE BELIEVE WERE EMPLOYEES
SHIT
ACCORDING TO THE DISPATCH, THEY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MURDERED
WELL, LET'S WRAP THIS UP BEFORE THE MEDIA GETS A WHIFF OF THIS
WE CAN'T LET THEM
Begin the operation
Click

BOOM
UNDER-STOOD!
COM-MENCING OPER-ATION!
CLANG!
EVERYONE, FULL BREACH!!!

TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA
BRRRRRRT!
ALL RIGHT! TAKE HIM DOWN!
Approaching the suspect, ready to engage!
SNATCH
READY THE CONTAINMENT VEHICLE!
The suspect is down!
GET IT STRAIGHT TO KOCHIGAWA!
VVVVVV
BEEP
Hello? Sudou-kun?
WE CAN GO ANY TIME.

You'll have a very "interesting" medical report waiting for you.
Did I catch you at a bad time?
BLAM BLAM
We're doing better than expected
You'll have your "prey" by sunrise
All right Lift!
Good, I'll be waiting.
Kochigawa, good timing
By the way,
I've got good news and bad news for you.
Houshou Aiko has regained consciousness
Well, that's good news
So what's the bad?

BAM
KOCHI-GAWA!!
TAK TAK
THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.
YOU DID CATCH IT ALIVE, RIGHT?
WHERE'S THE GIRL?!
SHE'S SLEEPING
What an annoying guy...
YEAH, RIGHT! IF WE ONLY WENT AFTER THE THING HALF-ASSED, WE'D BE THE ONES ON THE STRETCHER.
ANYWAY, WHAT ABOUT THAT REPORT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT EARLIER?
LOOK AT THIS.
?

THE INJURIES SHE SUSTAINED THREE DAYS AGO HAVE ALMOST HEALED
EVEN THAT SEVERELY MANGLED LEFT ARM OF HERS HAS GREATLY RECOVERED
YET, THE LEFT ARM ITSELF RAISES MORE QUESTIONS...
IT LOOKS MORE LIKE "REGENERATION"...
THAN "RECOVERY"

STILL, THAT'S CERTAINLY NOT THE ARM ONE WOULD NORMALLY FIND ON A FIFTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL,
SPEAKING FROM A CYTOLOGIST'S* POINT OF VIEW
FURTHERMORE, ABOUT HER LEFT ARM'S DNA...

*CYTOLOGIST - SOMEONE WHO STUDIES THE BRANCH OF BIOLOGY THAT DEALS WITH THE FORMATION, STRUCTURE, AND FUNCTION OF CELLS

*IDIOSYNCRASY | IN THE BIOLOGICAL SENSE MEANS A PARTICULAR (USUALLY MINORITY) GROUP OF PEOPLE (ANIMALS, ETC.) WHO CONTAIN SPECIAL ENZYMES IN THEIR BODY THAT REACT TO CERTAIN DRUGS/ENVIRONMENTS RATHER DIFFERENTLY THAN "NORMAL" PEOPLE

I CAN'T SAY IT WITH ANY CERTAINTY, THERE'S NO MEDICAL PRECEDENT FOR IT.
A LOCALISED MUTATION.
STILL, CONSIDERING HER MIRACULOUS RECOVERY-- NO...
HER "REVIVAL", MUST HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THAT LEFT ARM ...

KACHIK
YES?
TAKE IT TO LAB THREE.
I'M ON MY WAY.
I NEED TO GO TEND TO MY "PATIENT" NOW
OH, I'LL GO WITH YOU.
THREAT ...?!
SHE IS A DANGEROUS THREAT.

?
COULD YOU STAY AND WATCH OVER HER, INSTEAD?
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE MIGHT BE THE TYPE TO LOSE CONTROL.
OKAY, TAKE IT DOWN
WE'RE TAKING IT TO LAB THREE
YE-YEAH...
It's heavy!
WOW, THEY SURE DID A NUMBER ON THIS THING.
WHY CAN'T THEY "NEUTRALISE" IT IN A MORE PRECISE MANNER?
IT'LL BE HARD TO TAKE A GOOD SAMPLE

HUMMMM
PRESS
RIDING THE ELEVATOR WITH THIS THING CREEPS ME OUT
Even if it's dead
her bunny
her bunny
her bunny
HA HA HA!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN
RE
CH
WELL, YOU'LL GET USED TO-...
?!!
CHOP!

AH……

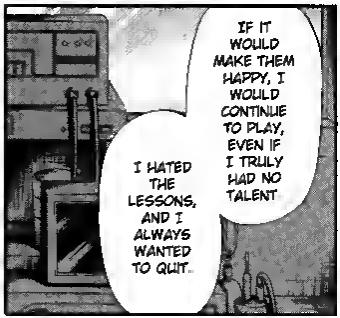
SLIDE
B1

CREAK
HM...?
WHO ...?
CLICK
SORRY, DID I WAKE YOU?

WHY AM I TIED DOWN?!
DO YOU WORK FOR THIS PLACE?
So it wasn't a dream...
SQUEEZE
INCIDENT?
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THREE DAYS AGO?
.. I'M SUDOU, CHIEF INVESTIGATOR OF THE INCIDENT YOU WERE INVOLVED IN.

YOU... YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHY MY ARM IS LIKE THIS, RIGHT?!
I DON'T WANT HEAR IT!
GUESS YOU DON'T REMEMBER...
LET'S WAIT FOR YOU TO CALM DOWN BEFORE WE GO ON...
NO!
EH?
WELL, THAT'S NOT...
WHERE ARE MY PARENTS?
IF THEY DON'T, THEN PLEASE DON'T TELL THEM YET.
DO THEY KNOW WHERE I AM?
LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE

YOU KNOW ...
I USED TO PLAY THE PIANO
IF THEY SEE ME LIKE THIS, THEY'D BE EVEN MORE SHOCKED THAN ME...


I HATED THE LESSONS, AND I ALWAYS WANTED TO QUIT.
IF IT WOULD MAKE THEM HAPPY, I WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY, EVEN IF I TRULY HAD NO TALENT

MY PARENTS ENJOYED LISTENING TO ME PLAY.
IT WOULD ALWAYS MAKE THEM HAPPY WHEN THEY HEARD ME PLAYING.

SO IS THIS MY PUNISHMENT...
TEARS
FOR EVER THINKING I WANTED TO QUIT...!

WITH THIS ARM...
I CAN NEVER PLAY AGAIN!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WITH THIS ARM ...
PULL
THIS IS A "THREAT"?
KOCHIGAWA'S DIAGNOSIS WAS WAY OFF.
RIP

I'M SORRY. YOU'RE JUST A NORMAL GIRL...
WHAT IS IT,
IF YOU'RE HERE TO
KOCHI-GAWA?!
SUDOU-KUN!!
BAM!
CHAK
...
HUH?

WE'RE IN DEEP TROUBLE!
COME WITH ME!!
WHOA!
WHAT THE HELL?!
TOSS
WHA...
Was that gun...
...real?!
WHAT THE...

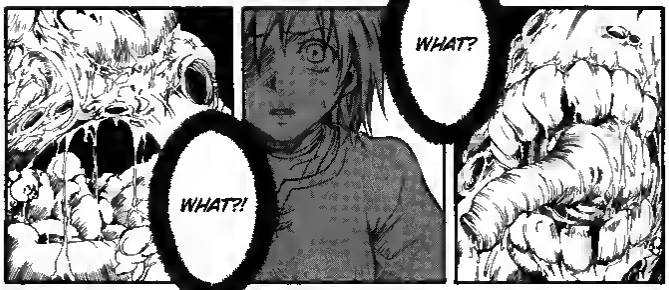
Ah...
Ah mere...
Isn't this a hospital?!
What's going on?!
Who are those people...?
NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'LL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MESS
YOU SURE?
CONTACT THE UPPER BRASS
TELL THEM TO BRING AN ARMED UNIT

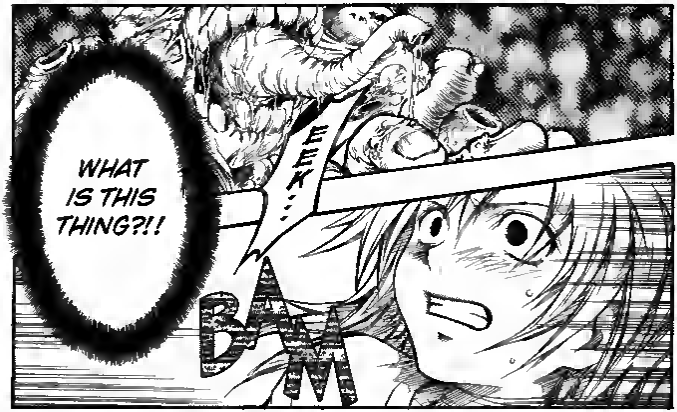
ANYWAY, WE CAN'T AFFORD ANY MORE LOSSES.

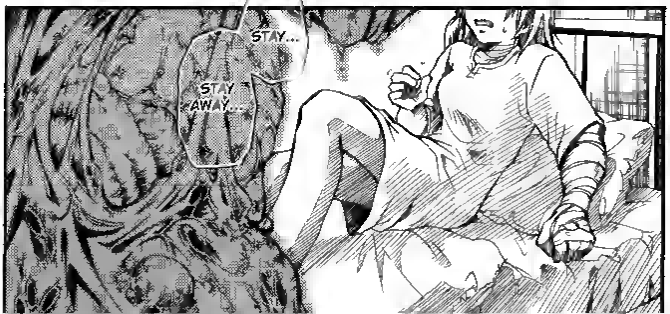
The sun rises over a town I do not know.

An unknown place,
with unknown people.
I don't even know how long they will keep me here.
STEP
STEP
I really do...
wish to see...
STEP

Papa and Mama...
EH...?


WHAT?
WHAT?!

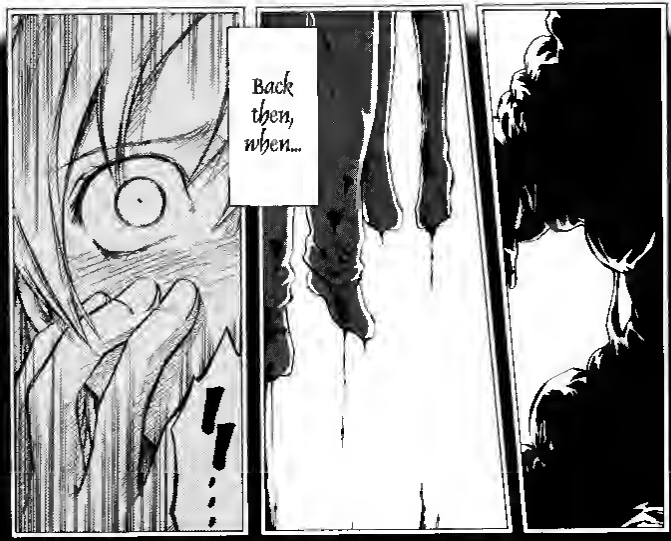

WHAT IS THIS THING?!!
EEK...
BAM


STAY...
STAY AWAY...

I'VE NEVER SEEN...
A MONSTER LIKE THIS..
tremble
tremble
Mayse they're already asleep?
I'm home
DROP

EH.....?

I SAW YOU...
...I KNOW YOU.


Back then, when...
!...

You...
killed... them...?!
Papa and Mama...
were killed...
AAAA!!
.....

WHY...
PAPA AND MAMA ...?!
WH...
WHY...?!
REACH

I'LL BE KILLED.
NO...
I'LL BE KILLED !!

BA
BUMP
YOU HAVE THE SAME SCENT...
.....?!!

KYAAA!!
SHIT! IT'S IN HER ROOM!
NOOOO!!
AIKO !!
BAM

I didn't ...
want to see the sunrise.

I could have still told myself it was just a bad dream, or a hallucination

Variante

#0002

[I CAN'T PLAY THE PIANO]

Raws/Scans
da MiGHTy pLUm!

Translator
Kechi

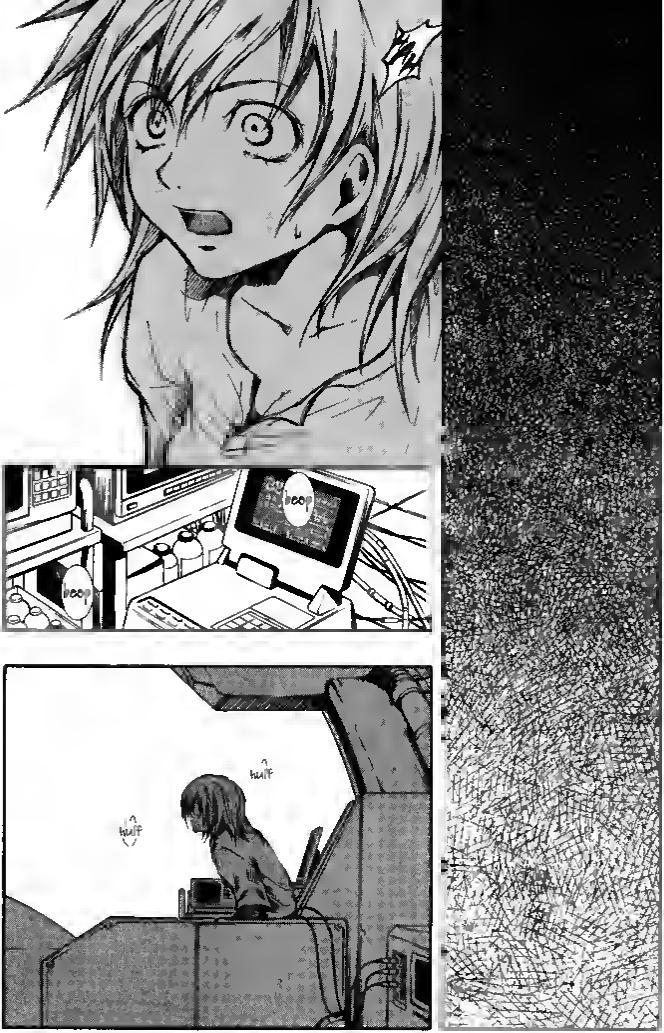
Translation Check
Floating Sakura

Editor
da MiGHTy pLUm!

Quality Assurance
Loserbait
Floating Sakura

#0002
[I CAN'T PLAY THE PIANO]

!!
UKP
!!
AAAAA!!


beep
beep
HALT
HALT

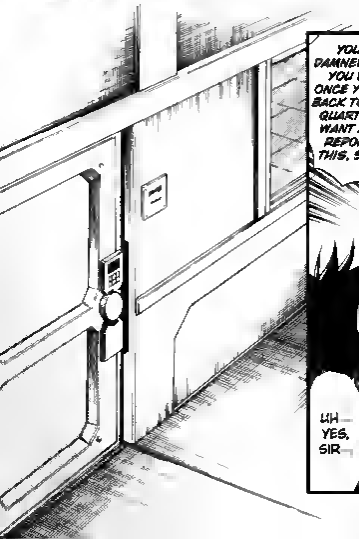
#0002
[I CAN'T PLAY [illegible] PIANO]

THIS IS QUITE A MESS YOU'VE GOT HERE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR KOCHI-GAWA.
CHIEF...
AH, SO EVEN THE DIRECTOR OF GENERAL AFFAIRS IS HERE

SKREA

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE BODIES, NOW THAT WE'VE RECOVERED THEM ALL?
TAKE THE CHIMAIRA TO THE LABORA-TORY.
AS FOR THE RESEAR-CHERS' BODIES, PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY RECEIVE A PROPER BURIAL.

IT'S NICE THAT YOU CAN BE SO ENTHUSIASTIC IN YOUR WORK,
BUT FOR SUCH A DISGRACEFUL DISPLAY TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHIN THIS COMPOUND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS MUST BE TAKEN


YOU'RE DAMNED RIGHT YOU WILL! ONCE YOU GET BACK TO HEAD-QUARTERS, I WANT A FULL REPORT ON THIS, SUDOU!!
UH... YES, SIR...
AH, THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO GO ABOUT DOING THINGS...
WAIT! PLEASE LET ME TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR THIS...

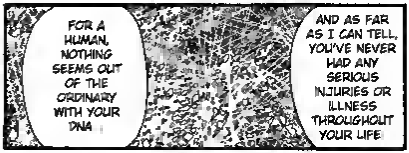
huff
huff
Why...
STARTLED
did this happen...?
Uwa

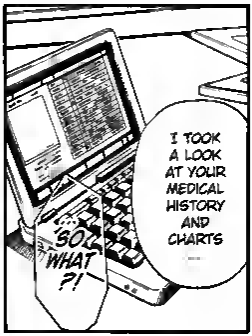
AIKO
OH, GUESS SHE'S AWAKE NOW
I WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE CHIMAIRA HERE AFTER ALL
I COULDN'T LET THINGS GO THAT WAY.
WHAT HAPPENS HERE IS MY RESPONSIBILITY
KACHAK
THERE WASN'T ANY REASON FOR YOU TO TAKE THE BLAME, SUDOU-KUN
you dork
TELL ME!!
TELL ME!!
YOU PEOPLE KNOW, DON'T YOU?!
PLEASE ...
JUST WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?!
WHAT IS THIS ARM?!

HEY, WHAT'RE YOU ?
THIS IS IMPOR-TANT
Aiko-san
Was this morning really the first time your arm has morphed like that?

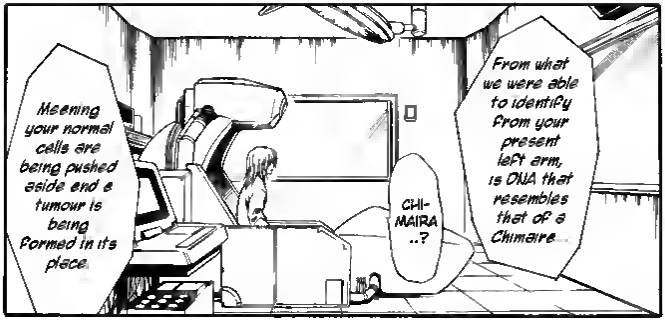
TYING ME DOWN IN HERE LIKE THIS?!
AND WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING WITH ME,

Sorry, I'm just making sure
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! OF COURSE IT WAS!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?!


FOR A HUMAN, NOTHING SEEMS OUT OF THE ORDINARY WITH YOUR DNA
AND AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU'VE NEVER HAD ANY SERIOUS INJURIES OR ILLNESS THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE

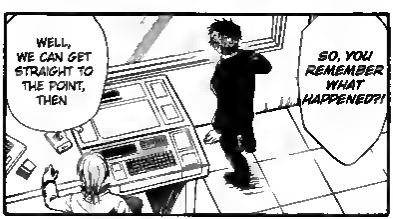

I TOOK A LOOK AT YOUR MEDICAL HISTORY AND CHARTS
...SO, WHAT?!

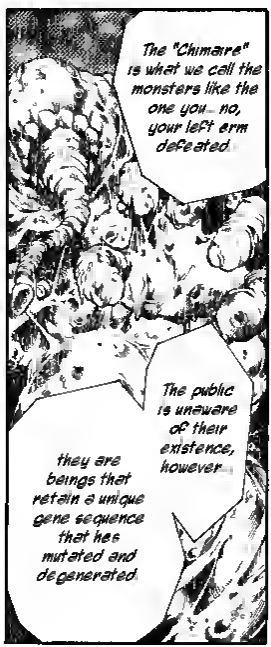
WHY I SAY THAT, IS BECAUSE


From what we were able to identify from your present left arm, is DNA that resembles that of a Chimaera...
CHI-MAIRA ...?
Meaning your normal cells are being pushed aside and a tumour is being formed in its place.

You're a perfectly normal human being... except for your left arm

SO WHY IS IT ON MY ARM?
IT...
IT KILLED PAPA AND MAMA...


SO, YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?!
WELL, WE CAN GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT, THEN


The "Chimaera" is what we call the monsters like the one you... no, your left arm defeated...
The public is unaware of their existence, however...
they are beings that retain a unique gene sequence that has mutated and degenerated.

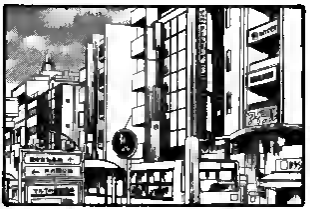
WHAT...? THAT... ARE YOU SAYING THERE ARE MORE MONSTERS LIKE THAT?!
THEN, THE ONE WHO KILLED THEM ..!
...DOES HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS ARM AFTER ALL?!
EH?!
The Chimaera from this morning and your left arm have nothing to do with each other
Don't worry
WE CANNOT DEFINITIVELY CONCLUDE IT WAS THE SAME ONE THAT KILLED YOUR PARENTS
ALSO, I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU'RE BASING YOUR JUDGEMENT SIMPLY ON THE FACT THAT "THEY LOOK ALIKE".
That's why we're going to take you back to the location of the incident to see if you can remember anything.
Take me...
...there?

LET GO OF ME!
NO!
I DON'T WANNA SEE WHERE PAPA AND MAMA WERE KILLED!!
C'MON, BE STILL.
OW!
OW!
LET GO OF ME!
I DON'T WANNA GO!!
NO!
NO!
NO!
OH BOY, WHAT A HAND FULL.

SUDOU-KUN...
GET WITH IT, ALREADY!
YOU'RE STILL A SUSPECT, YOU KNOW.
A suspect ...?
For what ...?
OKAY, SHE'S READY.
Is it because I have this arm?

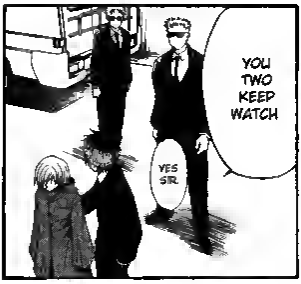
Papa and Mama --
Did I kill them ...?
SUDOU-KUN, I'M LEAVING THIS TO YOU
BE CARE-FUL.
I KNOW.

I see...
KROOM
Because ... of this.
I guess it's under-standable.



GET UP!

WE'RE HERE.
KA-CHA


YOU TWO KEEP WATCH
YES SIR.

My house
AIKO
RAISE YOUR HEAD
It's only been three days, but...
it feels like it's been much longer...
I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT I SAID EARLIER.
EH?
COME HERE
I KNOW THIS WILL BE HARD ON YOU
BUT, YOU MUST TAKE A LOOK
CLICK

JUST WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
CRIME SCENE DO NOT
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT

TREMBLE

PAPA ...
MAMA ...

UGH ...

AFTER YOU SAW THE CHIMAIRA, WHAT HAPPENED?
THAT'S WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW ...
I DON'T KNOW ...

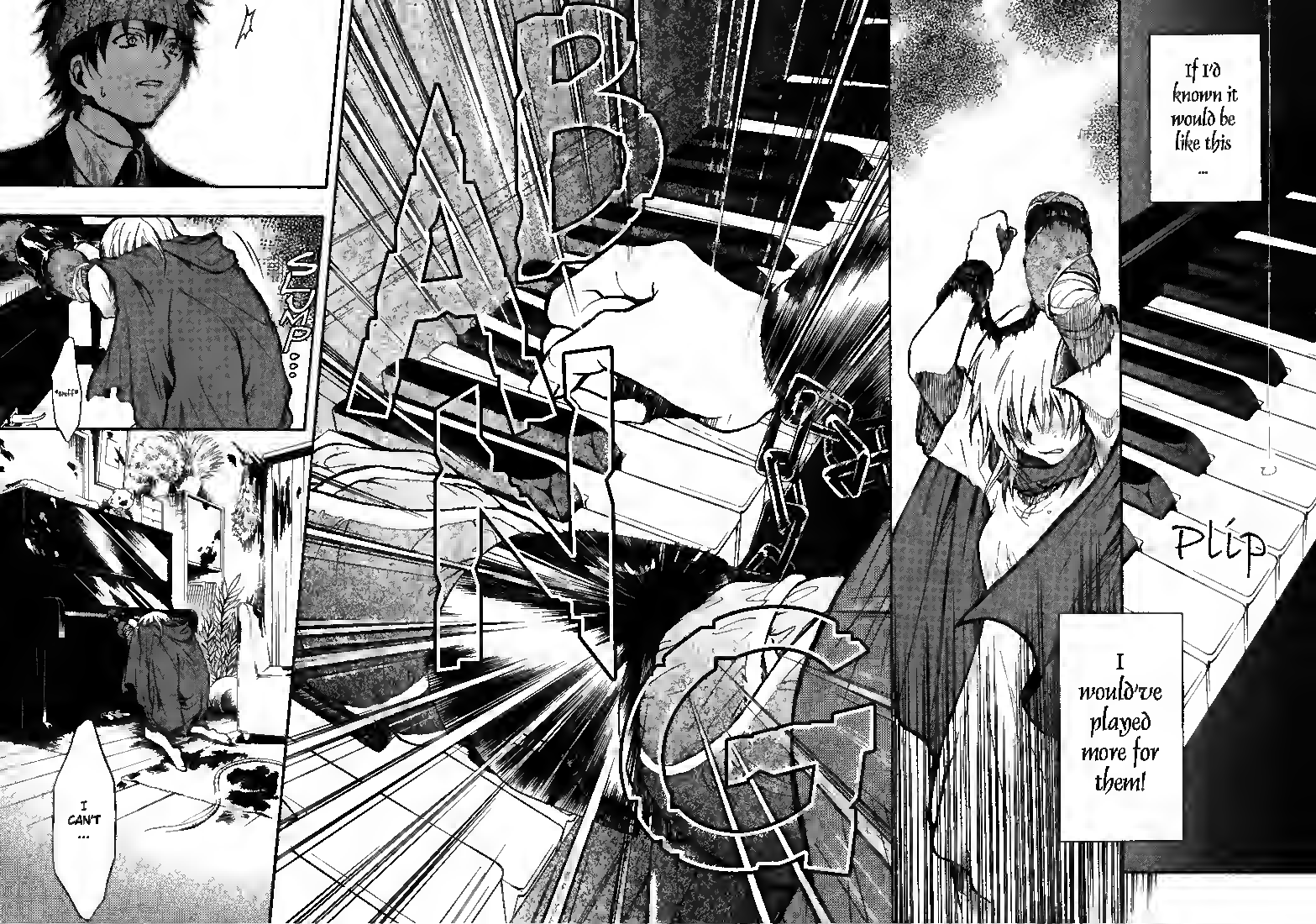
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ...
I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER ANYTHING ...
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT
CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS
CRIME SCENE
KEEP OU

PAT
KEEP O
YOU'RE RIGHT.
AND I WANT TO TAKE YOU FOR YOUR WORD.
!
CRIME S
YOU ARE, AFTER ALL...
E
ALSO ONE OF THE VICTIMS.
CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS
KEE

HEY!
YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!
SLAP
MY PIANO ...

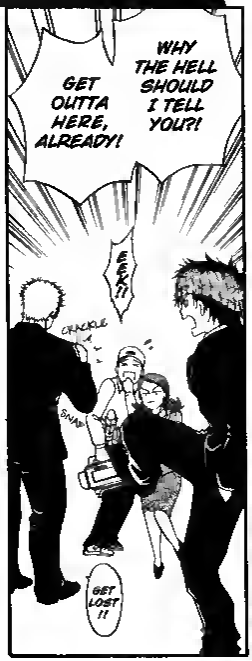
Look, dear.
She has talent!
What? Red looks much cuter on her.
Let's go with black for her next recital!
Hey, that's pretty good, Aiko.
Play me some more!
Aiko has to go to piano lessons.
Oh!
Let's play volleyball after school today.
That, and hitting the ball with her hands isn't a good idea.
What a shame.
Wow, maybe I should learn to play something.
Aiko-chan, you can play the piano! That's so cool.

Both of you, STOP IT!!
It's because you keep pressuring her with all this piano stuff!
Oh, please! You do it, too!
Besides, you...
Recently, Aiko has been skipping piano lessons and going out with her friends.
Yeah, and we just bought a new piano for her, too...
So please, stop fighting.
I'll continue piano.
Besides, I have confidence in my ability.
...
RING
When was the last time...
that I played for them...?


If I'd known it would be like this ...
Plip
I would've played more for them!
BAM!
I CAN'T ...
PLOP...

I CAN'T PLAY THE PIANO LIKE THIS!!

PAPA
MAMA
SUDOU-SAN!
LISTEN, IT'D BE BEST IF YOU DON'T COME OUTSIDE RIGHT NOW
THERE'S A NEWS TEAM OUTSIDE!
JUST SEND THEM AWAY


WHY THE HELL SHOULD I TELL YOU?!
GET OUTTA HERE, ALREADY!
EEK!!
CRACKLE
SNAP
GET LOST!!

THOSE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE ONES OVERSEEING THIS CASE
I'M SIMPLY AN INVESTIGATOR ASSIGNED TO EXAMINE THE SCENE
AND WHAT CAN YOU CONCLUDE FROM YOUR EXAMINATION OF THE SCENE?!

HE CAME OUT!
EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU WITH THE POLICE?!

THIS WAS THE SCENE WHERE THREE PEOPLE WERE MURDERED, CORRECT?
HOW COME THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY PUBLIC REPORTS ON THE SITUATION OF THIS INCIDENT?
AREN'T THERE ANY LEADS?

YEAH
I DON'T THINK SHE CAN TELL US MUCH MORE RIGHT NOW
THE SHIT! POLICE NEED TO DO A BETTER FUCKING JOB OF MANAGING THE MEDIA
SUDOU-SAN, ARE YOU ALL DONE WITH THE HOUSE?
RUMBLE
LOOKS LIKE THE CLOUDS ARE STARTING TO BUILD UP, TOO
LET'S HEAD BACK.
SHIT...
AIKO...
WE NEED TO GO

THAT IDIOT!
WHERE DID SHE GO...?!
I didn't really mean to go outside, but...
What should I do...?

You're still a suspect, you know.
And that Sudou guy...
I'm sorry about what I said earlier
That women looks at me like I'm some sort of guinea pig.
I don't want to go back to that place.
I NEVER DID FIND OUT WHO THOSE PEOPLE WERE
The only thing I know for sure...
Is that I don't have a "home" to return to anymore.

Though it's been three days since I've disappeared...
-I wonder if she's worried about me...
SACHI...
she was the last person I saw that day...
PERKS
WOOF!
EH...?

NO WAY...
SACHI!
TEACHING UP
THUD
UH...
WHY ARE YOU BACKING AWAY FROM ME?
BUT...
THIS CAN'T BE...
YOU'RE ALREADY...
YOU SHOULD BE DEAD!!
DEAD...?!

THEY SAID THAT YOU WERE ALL DEAD!!
SACHI
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M RIGHT HERE.
B... BUT, YOUR WHOLE FAMILY...
THEY WERE ALL... KILLED... EVEN ON TV, THEY SAID...
PLEASE...
DON'T SAY THAT!
I'M STANDING RIGHT HERE!
.....
TUG
ATHMS

TARO ...
pant
pant
... THANK YOU.
YOU REALLY KNOW THAT I'M ALIVE.
AIKO ...
TWITCH
IDIOT!!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I WENT THROUGH THE PAST FEW DAYS AFTER FINDING OUT WHAT HAPPENED?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU CONTACT ME?!
IF YOU WERE ALIVE ALL THIS TIME, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO ME SOONER?!

BUT...
PLEASE DON'T CRY SACHI.
SOBS
I... I'M. I'M SORRY
IDIOT!
IDIOT!
SOBS

SINCE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE ...
...I FORGIVE YOU!

SACHI...
WELCOME BACK, AIKO.
plip
plip
CROUCH
OH NO!
AND WHAT'S WITH THOSE HAND-CUFFS?!
WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM?!
FLINCH
.....!
CLANK

WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
HOW DO I EXPLAIN THIS TO SACHI?
WELL... UM...
AIKO! TELL ME WHAT HAP-PENED!
WOOF
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
GRRRRR
?!!
BA BUMP

SHOOT!!

huff
huff
SIR!
YOU GUYS CHECK THAT WAY!
SHE COULDN'T HAVE GONE TOO FAR!
SORRY, YOU OKAY?
UH
HEY!
WHOA!
BAM!

SHAA
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT HAPPENED ?!
A ...
THUMP THUMP THUMP
WHAT DID YOU SEE?!

Variante

#0003

[THE RAINDROP PRELUDE]

Raws/Scans
da MiGHTy pLUm!

Translator
Kechi

Translation Check
Floating Sakura

Editor
da MiGHTy pLUm!

Quality Assurance
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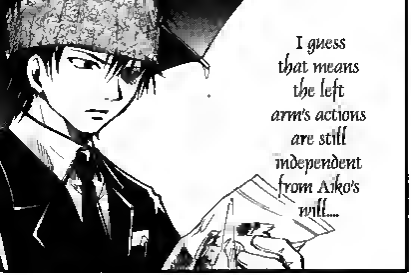
Only this time, it wasn't against a "Chimaira."

#0003
[THE RAINDROP PRELUDE]

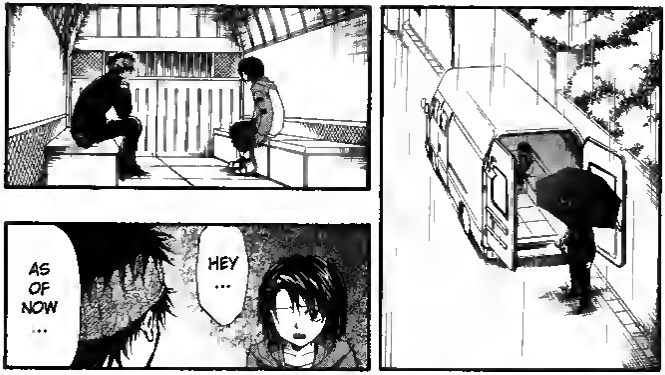

I guess that means the left arm's actions are still independent from Aiko's will....

AIKO AND TARO ALWAYS GOT ALONG WELL TOGETHER
WHY WOULD SHE...?

SUDOU-SAN, I HAVE THE INFORMATION YOU ASKED FOR.

THEY HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE CHILDHOOD, AND DID IN FACT COME IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER THE DAY OF HOUSHOU'S FAMILY'S INCIDENT
...GREAT.

TAKASHIMA SACHIYO
SHE IS FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, AND IS THE ELDEST DAUGHTER IN HER FAMILY.
SHE AND HOUSHOU AIKO WENT TO THE SAME PRIVATE SCHOOL TOGETHER.


HEY ...
AS OF NOW ...

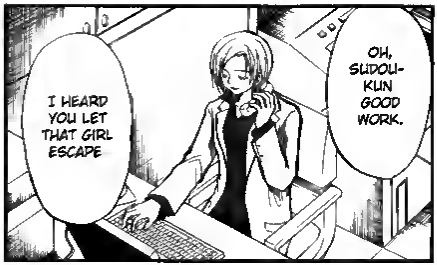
AS OF NOW, ACCORDING TO OUR PUBLIC SAFETY PROTOCOLS, WE WILL BE BURDENING YOU WITH WHAT HAS HAPPENED TODAY
IF YOU DO, IN FACT, IGNORE MY WARNING AND GO PUBLIC WITH THIS INFORMATION, WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DEAL WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

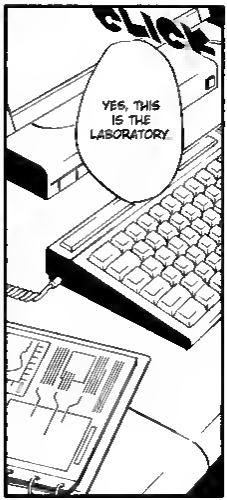
HOUSHOU AIKO DID, IN FACT, DIE A FEW DAYS AGO.
YOUR DOG'S DEATH WAS AN UNFORESEEN ACCIDENT
IT'D BE BEST IF YOU FORGET EVERYTHING ELSE AND LEAVE IT AT THAT.

YOU WANT... ME..
TO FORGET...
ABOUT AIKO.. ?
THAT...
HOW CAN I FORGET ...
SOME-THING LIKE THAT?!
YES, "SOMETHING LIKE THAT."

AFTER SEEING WHAT SHE DID, YOU RAN AWAY.
B-BUT...
SO STAY OUT OF THIS.
THAT ISN'T THE HOUSHOU AIKO THAT YOU KNOW ANYMORE, RIGHT?
...

...IT'S FOR HER OWN GOOD.
IT'D BE BEST IF YOU FORGOT ABOUT HER...
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP


I HEARD YOU LET THAT GIRL ESCAPE
OH, SUDOU-KUN GOOD WORK.


CLICK
YES. THIS IS THE LABORATORY.

Those two bodyguards with you work for me too, you know
UGH!
HOW DID YOU KNOW ...?

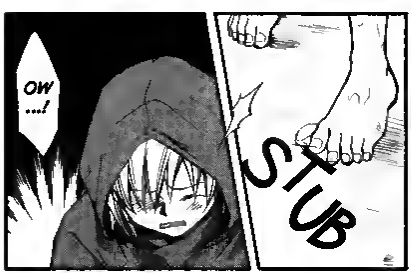
Well, I can't help you if you don't realize it yourself
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I MEAN TO BE...

But you're too soft on that girl
Oh, I trust you
I GET THE FEELING YOU DON'T TRUST ME ANYMORE

YOUR SOFTNESS HAS DRIVEN THAT GIRL INTO A CORNER.
YEAH, I KNOW! IT'S MY FAULT!
I'M HANGING UP
I'LL HAVE HER BACK WITHIN THE HOUR
TCH.
KA CLAK
THIS WILL BE A GOOD CHANCE FOR HER TO SEE THE TRUTH.
THAT THERE'S NO PLACE LEFT...
OH WELL.
...

...FOR HER TO RUN TO.
ATHEOS

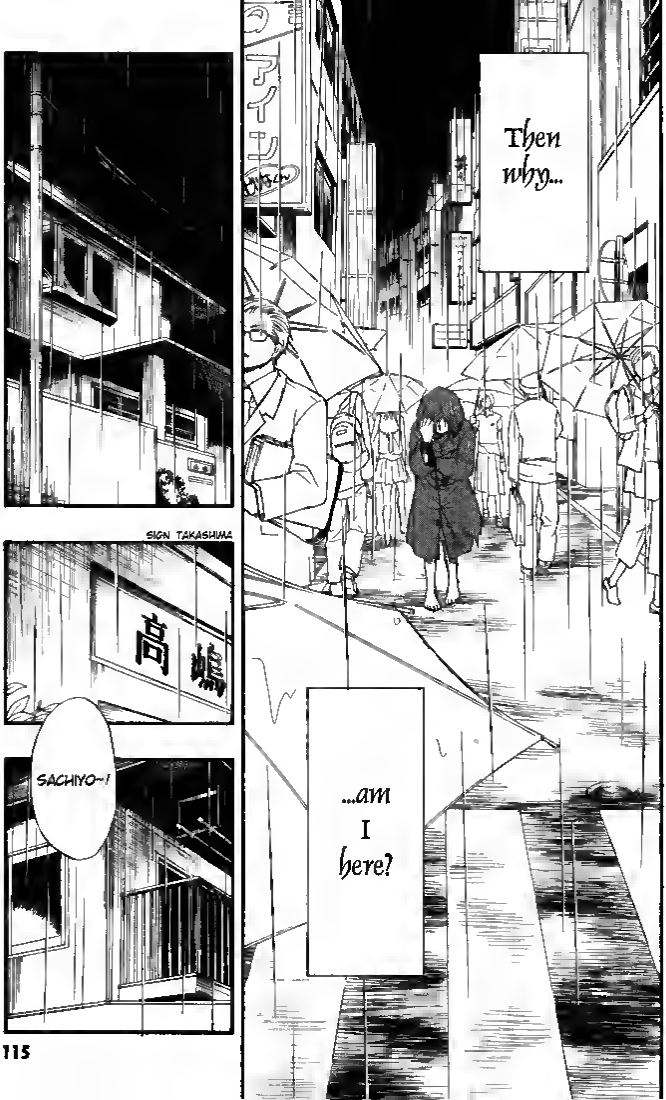
STARE

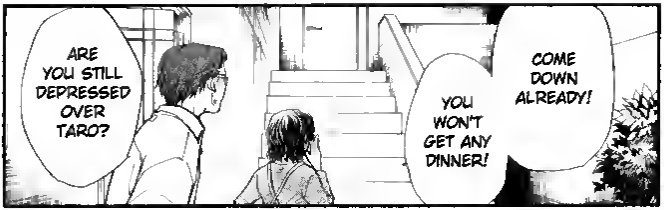

OW ...!
STUB

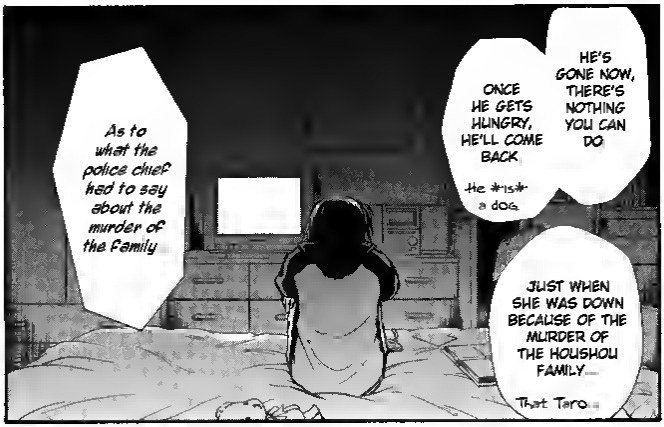
THIS ISN'T THE TIME...
TO BE HUNGRY!!
huff
GRUMBLE
-SOB-
Next on the news
We have a follow-up report on the murders in Musashino City last weekend.
According to the police chief leading the investigation, the case is being pursued as a robbery gone badly.

Chief, what are you doing?
HEY, WAIT! ARE YOU...?!
ATHEIS
Also, not all the details of the murders themselves have been released yet.
AH...
HM?
...!
WHOA!

SPLASH
But...
In this world, I don't exist.
It's like I'm lost in a completely different world.

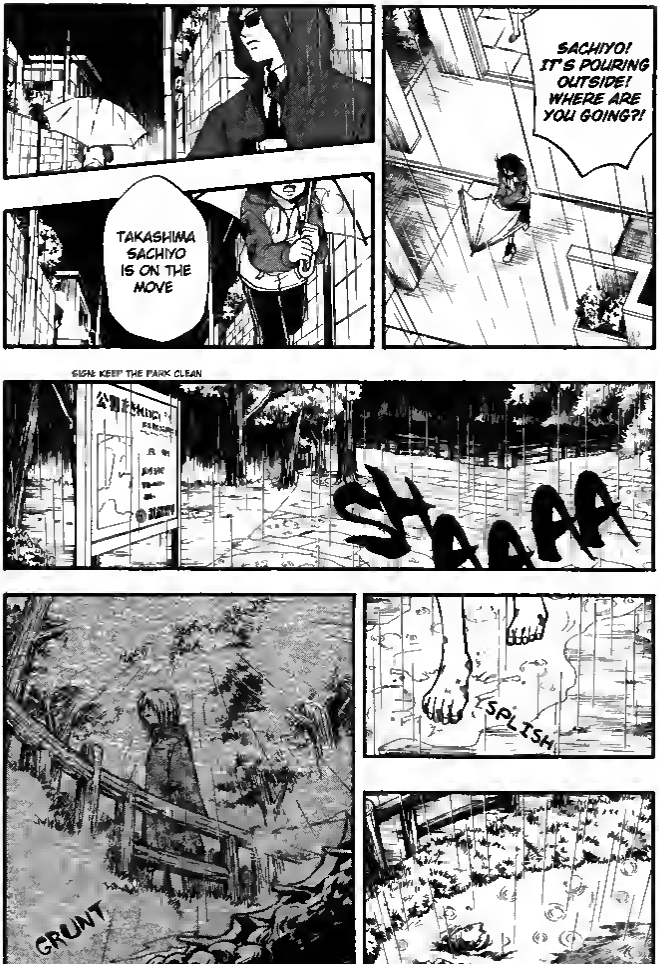

Then why...
...am I here?
SIGN TAKASHIMA
高嶋
SACHIYO~!


ARE YOU STILL DEPRESSED OVER TARO?
YOU WON'T GET ANY DINNER!
COME DOWN ALREADY!


As to what the police chief had to say about the murder of the family
ONCE HE GETS HUNGRY, HE'LL COME BACK
He isn't a dog.
HE'S GONE NOW, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO
JUST WHEN SHE WAS DOWN BECAUSE OF THE MURDER OF THE HOUSHOU FAMILY—
That Taro...

Tonight, we have a special guest, Kanada-san, an expert in the field of criminal psychology. Kanada-san?
Thank you for having me...
After seeing what she did, you ran away.
So stay out of this.

That isn't the Houshou Aiko you know anymore, right?
What are you talking about...?
I'm right here.
It'd be best if you forgot about her... It's for her own good.
AIKO...
OUCH
THERE'S NO WAY...
I COULD EVER FORGET!!
Just recently, at Inokashira Park...
Next, we have a story from Inokashira Park.
PERK


TAKASHIMA SACHIYO IS ON THE MOVE
SACHIYO! IT'S POURING OUTSIDE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
SIGN: KEEP THE PARK CLEAN
SHAAA
SPLISH
GRUNT

SHAAA
We shared a lot of memories here.
It was fun...
Sachi...

You were always by my side...
Welcome back, Aiko...
So I thought that, even with Papa and Mama gone,
that I could get through it with you to support me.
But instead, I...
I KILLED HIM...
RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER...!
WHY...?
TARO DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG...

Stop...
N... NO...
Don't look at me like that.
It makes me feel like...
W... WAIT... SACHI...
ST..
STAY AWAY, YOU MONSTER !!
NOOO!!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
I'M NOT A MONSTER !!
It's not me...
It's not me...
It's not me...
IT'S NOT ME...
IT'S...
.....

WHOOSH
IT'S ALL ...
THIS ARM'S FAULT !!
BAM

Uu
...
Ah
...
...
Huff
...
SRSH

Forgive me... though I might not deserve it.
I'm sorry, Sachi...
I'm sorry, Taro.
ugh
It hurts
This pain that overwhelms me...
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
...is worse than death.
AWO !!

AIKO !!
THANK GOD...
I KNEW I'D FIND YOU AT THIS PARK...
Huff
Huff

JEEZ
I RAN AROUND THE WHOLE PARK LOOKING FOR YOU.
MUCK
WHY...?
WHY DO YOU STILL CARE ABOUT ME...?

I REALLY WANTED TO APOLOGIZE
I SAID SOME AWFUL THINGS TO YO
?!
HEY, YOUR ARM !!

NO!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
LET ME SEE !!
SPLASH

STOP!
AIKO..

SHIT
PLEASE
DON'T RUN
WAIT!
KA-BOOM!
DID YOU
DO IT YOUR-SELF
.?
BECAUSE
I WON'T RUN AWAY EITHER.
.....
WHY?

SQUEEZE
THIS ARM ...
KILLED TARO.
AREN'T YOU SCARED OF ME?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM, AND IT HONESTLY SCARES ME TO DEATH...
AND I'M REALLY DISTRESSED OVER TARO
OF COURSE
TOUCH
BUT, I CARE MORE ABOUT YOU...
TWITCH
YOU'RE WEAK SPIRITED BUT RECKLESS AND THE TYPE THAT OVERREACTS
YOU'RE OVER EMOTIONAL, AND A SPOILED BRAT...

BUT, YOU ALSO TRY HARD, AND ARE ALWAYS HONEST AND KIND
YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON.
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT!
...
AND ALSO ...
A CRYBABY.
SOB
WHIMPER

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK...
AIKO IS AIKO.

SHOULDN'T WE DETAIN HER?
JUST WAIT A BIT.
IT'D BE NICE TO
AT LEAST ONE PERSON IN THE ORGANIZATION THAT REMEMBERS HER SMILING FACE.
I thought there wasn't a place left for me in this world anymore.
THIS PLACE WILL NEVER CHANGE EITHER.
IT'S THE WORLD I KNOW.

BECAUSE SACHI...
...IS BY MY SIDE.

SPLASH

FLAP
FLAP
WHA ...?
WHAT THE FUCK?!

gnaw
GET AWAY !!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, AIKO?!
BANG!
BANG!
CHIKU
CODE 14!
CODE 14!
AT INOKASHIRA PARK!

DRO
BANG!
TWITCH
SA...
CHI...?
BA-BUMP
Aiko is Aiko
BA-BUMP
Welcome back, Aiko.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP

Aiko
!!
...
AH
...
AH
...
Aiko
AH
...

GRIT
.....
STAGGER
AIKO
...

GIVE BACK SACHI ...
GIVE BACK PAPA AND MAMA ...
STOP TAKING EVERYTHING AWAY FROM ME!!

HER ARM ...!!
HA ...
This arm ...
HA HA ...

I wonder how strong it is...
DASH
UWAAH!!
AIKO, STOP!!

!!!
IVE
ME

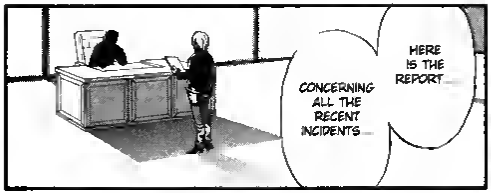
SPLEUCH
GIVE ME BACK ...
MY LIFE !!

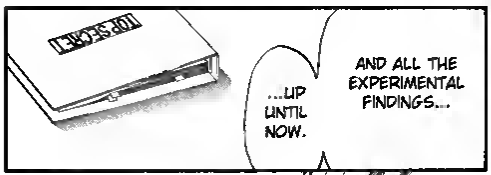
SPLISH

AIKO
...?

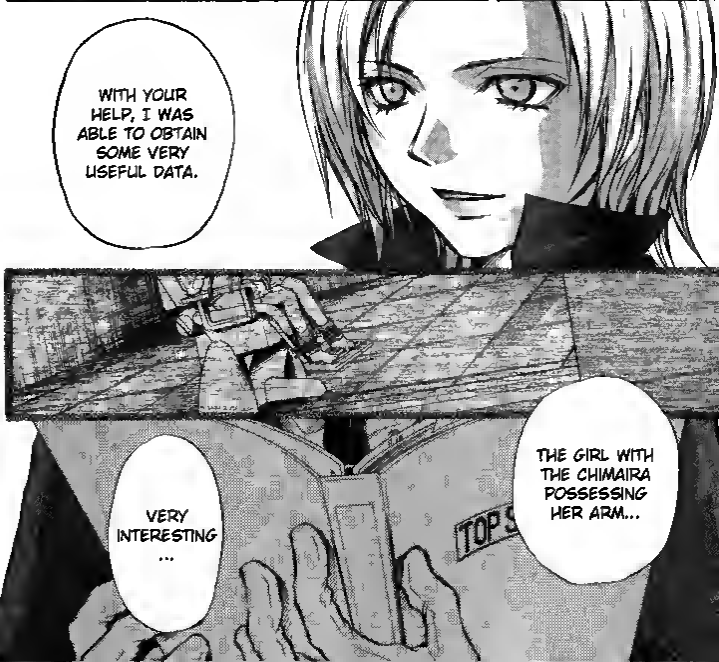
AM
I...
STILL
...
HUMAN
...?

I'M STILL ...
ATHEOS
HUMAN, RIGHT?

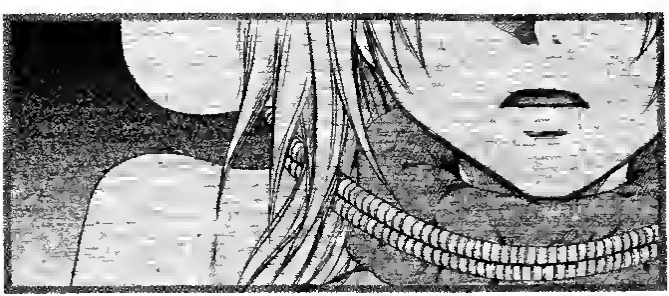

HERE IS THE REPORT...
CONCERNING ALL THE RECENT INCIDENTS...


AND ALL THE EXPERIMENTAL FINDINGS...
...UP UNTIL NOW.

THEOS


WITH YOUR HELP, I WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN SOME VERY USEFUL DATA.
THE GIRL WITH THE CHIMAIRA POSSESSING HER ARM...
VERY INTERESTING ...

...EH?
ECRET
CAN WE USE HER?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT THIS SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS ...
HAZARD LEVEL FOUR?



I'M ASKING IF WE...
CAN USE THAT GIRL.

Variante

#0004

[DEAD OR ALIVE]

Raws/Scans
da MiGHTy pLUm!

Translator
Floating Sakura

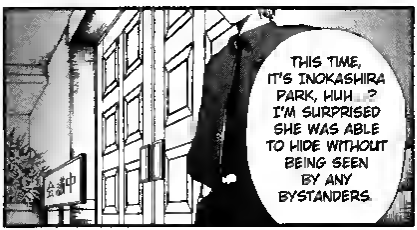
Translation Check
Kechi

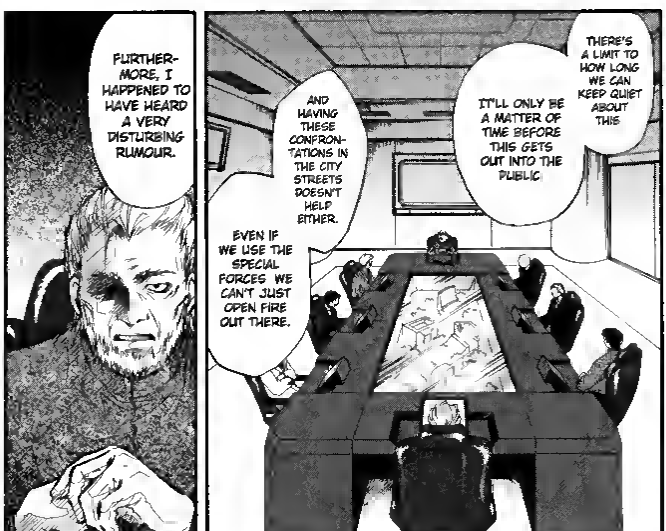
Editing
da MiGHTy pLUm!

Quality Assurance
Losertait

For example,
If this was a cold, jagged blade, or a heavy pistol with the scent of gun powder...
I would want to hide it some place that is beyond my reach.
But I do not yet know how to escape from this 'weapon'...
#0004
[DEAD OR ALIVE]

#0004
[DEAD OR ALIVE]


THIS TIME, IT'S INOKASHIRA PARK, HUH...? I'M SURPRISED SHE WAS ABLE TO HIDE WITHOUT BEING SEEN BY ANY BYSTANDERS.


FURTHER-MORE, I HAPPENED TO HAVE HEARD A VERY DISTURBING RUMOUR.
EVEN IF WE USE THE SPECIAL FORCES WE CAN'T JUST OPEN FIRE OUT THERE.
AND HAVING THESE CONFRON-TATIONS IN THE CITY STREETS DOESN'T HELP EITHER.
IT'LL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THIS GETS OUT INTO THE PUBLIC.
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW LONG WE CAN KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN HIDING A VERY... "INTERESTING" DEVELOPMENT FROM US...
REPRE-SENTATIVE OKUDA?
OH...?
WHAT MIGHT YOU BE TALKING ABOUT?
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF POWERFUL DRUG... NO,
HAVE YOU ALREADY DEVELOPED SOME SORT OF POWERFUL BIOLOGICAL WEAPON?
RATTLE
BIO-LOGICAL WEAPON ?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEIGN IGNORANCE
IT SEEMS THAT WHEN THE FORCES ARRIVED, THE BEAST WAS ALREADY TORN TO PIECES
WHAT?! HOW COULD THAT HAVE HAPPENED?

WELL WELL...
IT SEEMS I'VE ROUSED UP ALL THE RESEARCHERS
WELL, HOW ABOUT IT, OKUDA-KUN?!
IS THIS TRUE ?!
THEN, LET OUR UNIVERSITY'S LABORATORY SEE IT AS WELL...
NO! BRING IT TO MY FACILITY FIRST!

THEN, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU ALL...
BUT SUCH GROUND-BREAKING WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY DOES NOT EXIST.
THE CHIMAIRA'S CELL GROWTH WAS UNSTABLE TO BEGIN WITH
I RECEIVED REPORTS THAT IT WAS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS STRUCTURE AND EVENTUALLY DISSOLVED TO PIECES

CHATTER
CHATTER
ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW?
I UNDER-STAND
YOU WILL NEED TO PUT MORE EFFORT INTO COLLECTING "THEM."
WE ONLY NEED TO LET THE POLICE HANDLE THE CLEAN-UP
IN ANY CASE, WE REQUIRE ALL SAMPLES SECURED AND ITS RESEARCH.
AFTER ALL... "OUR COUNTRY'S LIFE RESTS ON OUR SHOULDERS" IS OUR MOTTO...
...IS IT NOT?

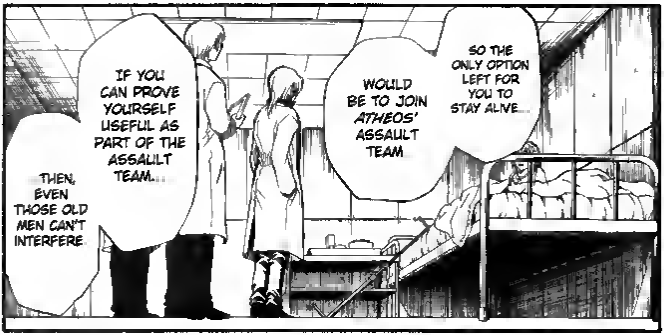
SHAAAA
TINK
I wonder... if it's stopped raining yet...?

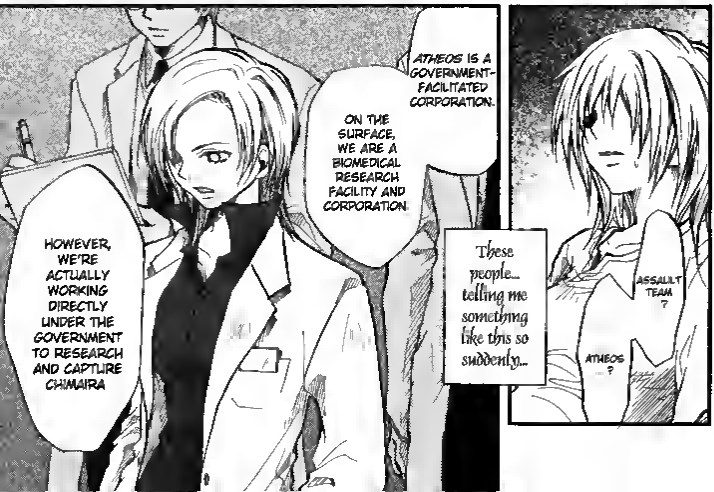
Is this reality, or is it a dream...?
Is it hot, or cold?
Is it day, or night right now?
KA-CHAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
...if I just forget everything...
...and die quietly
It's probably easier...
...or if I'm dead.
Just sitting here, I can't even tell if I'm alive...

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S REALLY NO POINT IN MY ASKING
BUT I DO HAVE A TASK FOR YOU TO DO
HOUSHOU AIKO-SAN
I'M SIMPLY HERE TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM THE UPPER BRASS

WE WANT YOU TO FIGHT THE CHIMAIRA...
...AS ONE OF US. AS A MEMBER OF ATHEOS.
.....
BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT AT INOKASHIRA PARK, YOUR EXISTENCE HAS BEEN REVEALED TO THE SENIOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AT THE RATE THINGS ARE GOING, IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU WILL BE NOTHING BUT A SAMPLE TO BE USED IN THEIR EXPERIMENTS

WE'VE ALREADY RECEIVED ORDERS FROM THE BOARD TO HAND YOU OVER.
AT THAT POINT, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GUARANTEE YOUR LIFE


SO THE ONLY OPTION LEFT FOR YOU TO STAY ALIVE...
WOULD BE TO JOIN ATHEOS' ASSAULT TEAM
IF YOU CAN PROVE YOURSELF USEFUL AS PART OF THE ASSAULT TEAM...
THEN, EVEN THOSE OLD MEN CAN'T INTERFERE


ATHEOS IS A GOVERNMENT-FACILITATED CORPORATION.
ON THE SURFACE, WE ARE A BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FACILITY AND CORPORATION.
HOWEVER, WE'RE ACTUALLY WORKING DIRECTLY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT TO RESEARCH AND CAPTURE CHIMAIRA
These people... telling me something like this so suddenly...
ASSAULT TEAM ?
ATHEOS ?

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN...
AND SO, WE WISH TO HAVE YOUR COOPERATION
THE EXISTENCE OF THE CHIMAIRA IS HIGHLY CLASSIFIED GOVERNMENT INFORMATION.
WE FIGHT COVERTLY SO AS TO AVOID OTHERS FROM FINDING OUT ABOUT THEM.
Using my left arm...
...to fight.
YOU CAN FIGHT.

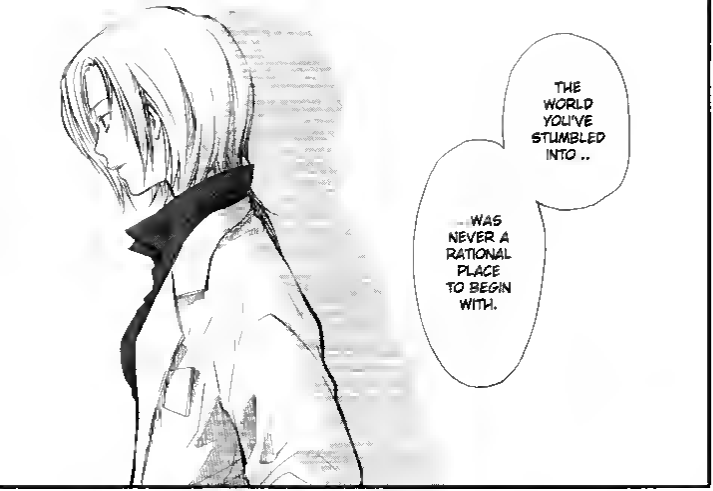
RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE STILL MANY MYSTERIES TO THAT LEFT ARM
...SO OF COURSE, IT'LL BE DANGEROUS

Sachi...
UNDER YOUR OWN WILL, YOU WERE ABLE TO FIGHT THAT CHIMAIRA AFTER YOUR FRIEND'S DEATH...
...AND IT WAS SWEET VENGEANCE, WAS IT NOT?

BUT IF WE CONFIRM THOSE UNCERTAINTIES...

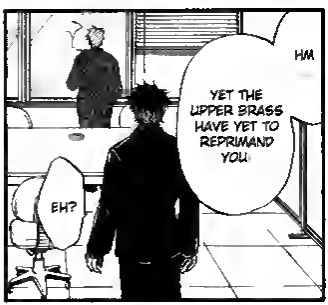
.....
YOU MUST DECIDE NOW, WHETHER THAT LEFT ARM,
AND YOUR EXISTENCE ITSELF, IS FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW I FEEL
. STOP TALKING LIKE YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYMORE BLOOD!!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYTHING ANYMORE !!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE REASON FOR MY EXISTENCE! IF IT MEANS I HAVE TO GO THROUGH SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS...
I'D RATHER DIE!!
I SEE ...

IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE WILL TO FIGHT...
...WE DON'T HAVE ANY REASONS TO RISK HAVING YOU HERE
WE'LL JUST PASS YOU OVER TO THE DIRECTORS AT THE NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER.
TO COEXIST WITH THAT LEFT ARM...
...OR TO FORGET EVERYTHING AND BE SUBMERGED IN FORMALIN*, TO SIMPLY DIE.
YOU HAVE UNTIL MORNING TO MAKE YOUR DECISION
*FORMALIN, OR FORMALDEHYDE, IN SOLUTION IS USED AS A TISSUE PRESERVATIVE AND FIXATIVE FOR TISSUE SPECIMENS
BAM!
IT IS UNFOR-TUNATE

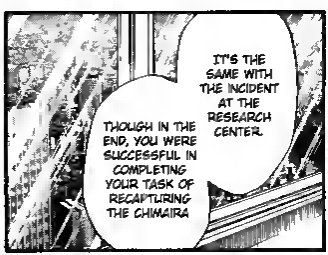

THE WORLD YOU'VE STUMBLED INTO ..
... WAS NEVER A RATIONAL PLACE TO BEGIN WITH.

EXCUSE ME...
GENERAL AFFAIRS
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
GWA!

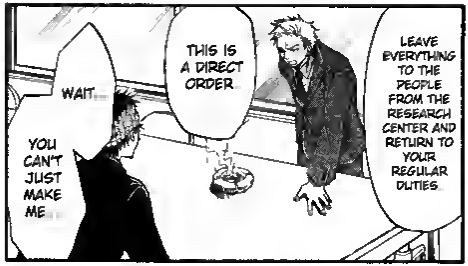
CHIEF
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE SEVERITY OF WHAT'S HAPPENED,
SUDOU?
YES

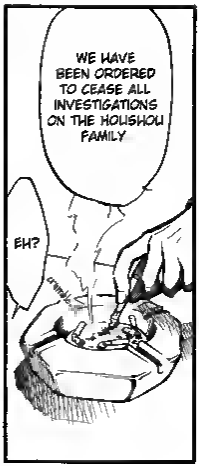

HM
YET THE UPPER BRASS HAVE YET TO REPRIMAND YOU.
EH?

I WAS THE ONE WHO LOST OUR IMPORTANT WITNESS AND ALLOWED HER THE CHANCE TO MEET THE CHIMAIRA
NOT ONLY WAS IT POOR JUDGEMENT, BUT I'VE ALSO ALLOWED FOR CASUALTIES
I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY.


IT'S THE SAME WITH THE INCIDENT AT THE RESEARCH CENTER.
THOUGH IN THE END, YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL IN COMPLETING YOUR TASK OF RECAPTURING THE CHIMAIRA

IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE UPPER BRASS CONSIDER CIVILIAN CASUALTIES TO BE...
...A TRIVIAL MATTER.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER
BECAUSE I'LL TRY MY HARDEST TO ATONE FOR MY PAST MISTAKES
HOPEFULLY, THIS WON'T BE JUST A CASE OF SELF-GRATIFICATION.
THAT IS HOW A GROUP CLAIMING TO SHOULDER JUSTICE THINKS...
...AM I RIGHT?
SUDOU!
YOU'RE STILL WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THAT TIME
CHIEF!
IF YOU'RE DONE TALKING, I'LL BE HEADING OFF.
WAIT, SUDOU!


LEAVE EVERYTHING TO THE PEOPLE FROM THE RESEARCH CENTER AND RETURN TO YOUR REGULAR DUTIES.
THIS IS A DIRECT ORDER.
WAIT...
YOU CAN'T JUST MAKE ME...


WE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CEASE ALL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE HOUSHOU FAMILY
EH?

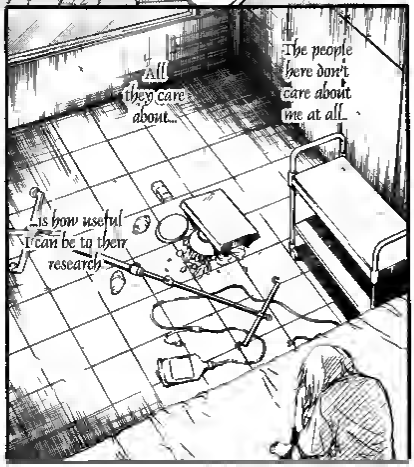
I DON'T THINK YOU UNDER-STAND.
YOUR JOB IS TO CAPTURE THE CHIMAIRA AND TO PERFORM ANY PRELIMINARY INVESTIGA-TIONS.
IT IS NOT YOUR DUTY TO CAPTURE THE CRIMINAL FOR THE VICTIM.

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE
YOU SHOULD STEP OFF THE HOUSHOU AIKO CASE

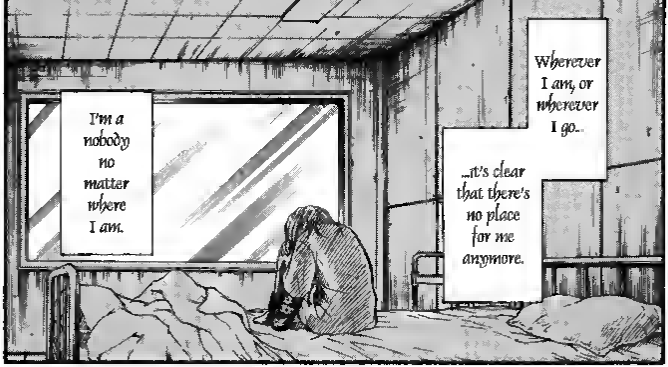
You have until morning to make your decision
To coexist with that left arm...
...or to forget everything and be submerged in formalin to simply die

COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT SUDOU GUY
DIDN'T COME TODAY, EITHER.

NOT THAT I CARE—

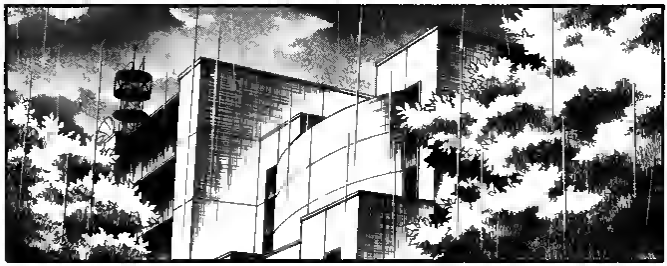

The people here don't care about me at all.
All they care about...
...is how useful I can be to their research

SUDOU-SAN!
YOU'LL GET US IN TROUBLE IF WE LET YOU IN!
IT'S PROHIB-ITED!
OH, COME ON!
I JUST NEED A MINUTE!
BAM
ANYHOW, TONIGHT IS NO GOOD!
THEN WHEN CAN I SEE HER?!
TRY TOMOR-ROW MORN-ING...
IT'LL PROBABLY BE THE LAST TIME YOU'LL GET TO SEE THAT GIRL.
LAST TIME ?!
BAM—
HEY!
CAN YOU HEAR ME, AIKO?
I HAVE SOME-THING TO TELL YOU!!
SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO HEAR YOU. THE WALLS ARE SOUND PROOFED
SHAKE
SUDOU-SAN...
IT HURTS
HEY!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!
TELL ME!

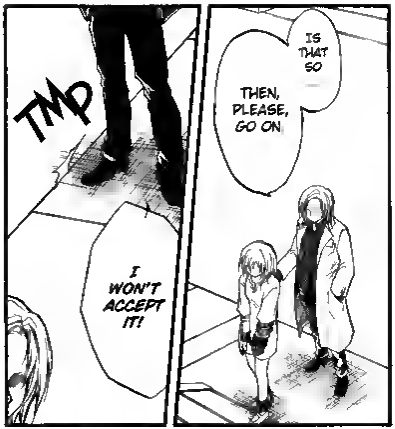

I'm a nobody no matter where I am.
Wherever I am, or wherever I go...
...it's clear that there's no place for me anymore.

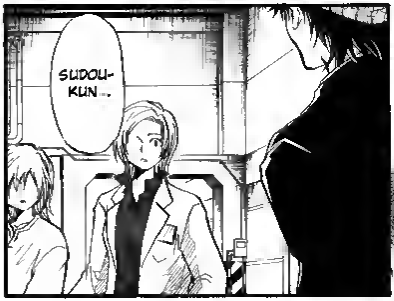
IF IT WASN'T FOR ME...
SACHI WOULD STILL BE ALIVE
It's painful knowing I've struggled this hard, only to be haunted by these questions in the end.
What will happen to me?
What will happen to this arm?
I'm afraid to die...
...but even so, it's better to end it like that.
I don't deserve to live.
.....
Who will it hurt next time...?

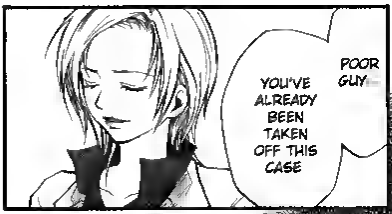
I SHOULD JUST...
DIE ALREADY ...!!



AFTER ALL THE RISKS WE'VE TAKEN AND RICKETY BRIDGES WE'VE CROSSED
IT ALL AMOUNTS TO NOTHING
I ALREADY EXPLAINED IT TO YOU LAST NIGHT.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF TREATMENT THEY'LL GIVE YOU OVER THERE.
THERE'S A CHANCE YOU MAY NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO CONTINUE LIVING, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
EVEN SO, DO YOU SERIOUSLY


TMP
I WON'T ACCEPT IT!
THEN, PLEASE, GO ON
IS THAT SO


SUDOU-KUN...


YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN OFF THIS CASE
POOR GUY

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY FINE WITH THAT?
AIKO-SAN

LET ME TALK TO HER
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WANT TO PERSUADE AIKO-SAN...
BESIDES...
...BUT I'M AFRAID YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO
SHE'S ALREADY MADE UP HER MIND ABOUT THIS.
.....
WAIT, AIKO!
LET ME SPEAK!
SUDOU-SAN!

I'VE BEEN TAKEN OFF THE INVESTIGATION INVOLVING YOUR FAMILY'S CASE!
BUT IF YOU DIE, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO INVESTIGATE IT AGAIN!
ARE YOU OKAY WITH NOT KNOWING...
...WHO OR WHAT KILLED YOUR PARENTS?
PAPA...
MAMA...
But then, what am I supposed to do?!
TNK

DON'T RUN AWAY, YOU COWARD!
YOU WERE ABLE TO COME BACK TO LIFE!
YOU WERE GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE! DOES THIS MEAN NOTHING TO YOU?!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOUR LIFE IS MEANING-LESS?!
.....
Welcome back, Aiko.
Since you're still alive I forgive you
No matter how you look Aiko is Aiko
Aiko
Aiko!
.....
WHA...

There's no one left who would cherish my existence..
I've already...
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?
WHY'S HE SAYING ALL THESE THINGS?!
SUDOU-KUN...

DON'T BE SO STUB-BORN !!
ONCE YOU DIE, THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!!
AIKO !!

AIKO!
With the way things are going, there's no point in going on living...
An existence filled with terror and bitterness...
This is how it should be...
SLAM
huff
huff
This is...

DON'T DIE!!
.....!!!

SHIT ...
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING ...?

PERHAPS
BUT EVEN SO, THAT GIRL IS
EVEN IF YOU COULD'VE PERSUADED HER FROM GOING...
THE ONLY THING SHE COULD LOOK FORWARD TO WOULD BE HER HARSH NEW REALITY
I DON'T WANT HER...
...TO DIE IN UTTER DESPAIR.
THAT DEFINITELY SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D SAY, SUDOU-KUN.

YOUR ACTS OF KINDNESS ALWAYS WERE USELESS
maybe even a bother
fuuu
SHUT UP!
SCREECH
HUH ...?
Wha...
WHAT THE HELL?!
TMP
Eh?
MAYBE THEY WEREN'T SO USE-LESS...

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED ...?!
IT... IT JUST SUDDENLY EXPLODED !!
!!
AIKO ?!
BOOM
?!!

KLANG
KLANG
ARE YOU IN THERE ?!
I'LL HELP ...
WHERE ARE YOU, AIKO?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
SLICE
!!
QUIVER

AH...

AH
...
...
I...
AIKO
...
...
I...

I
...
DON'T
...
...
WANT
TO
DIE
YET
...

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requiem for the world

ヴァリアンテ

01

END

Kadokawa Comics Dragon Jr.

角川コミックス ドラゴンJr

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